

What is claimed is:

1. A zoom lens formed of only two lens groups, in order from the object side, as follows:

a first lens group; and

a second lens group;

wherein

the first lens group includes, in order from the object side: a first lens component of negative refractive power that is made of plastic has at least one aspheric lens surface; and a second lens component of positive refractive power;

the second lens group includes, in order from the object side: a stop; a first lens component consisting of a first lens element having a biconvex shape and made of plastic with at least one lens surface aspheric; and a second lens component that includes, in order from the object side, a lens element having negative refractive power with the absolute value of the curvature of its object-side lens surface being smaller than the absolute value of the curvature of its image-side lens surface, said lens element being joined at said image-side lens surface to a lens element having a biconvex shape; and

the following conditions are satisfied:

$$B^{1/2} < f_{G2} / f_w < 0.9 \cdot B$$

$$-2.0 < f_{G1-1} / f_w < -1.5$$

$$R_{G2-1} / f_w > 0.8$$

$$|f_{G1} / f_w| < 3 \cdot B$$

where

B is the zoom ratio of the zoom lens, namely, the ratio of the focal length at the telephoto end divided by the focal length at the wide-angle end,

$f_{G2}$  is the focal length of the second lens group,

$f_w$  is the focal length of the zoom lens at the wide-angle end,

$f_{G1-1}$  is the focal length of the first lens component of the first lens group,

$R_{G2-1}$  is the radius of curvature of the object-side lens surface of the first lens element of the second lens group, and  
 $f_{G1}$  is the focal length of the first lens group.

2. The zoom lens of claim 1, wherein the first lens group consists of the first lens component of the first lens group and the second lens component of the first lens group.

3. The zoom lens of claim 1, wherein each of the first lens component of the first lens group and the second lens component of the first lens group consists of a lens element.

4. The zoom lens of claim 2, wherein each of the first lens component of the first lens group and the second lens component of the first lens group consists of a lens element.

5. The zoom lens of claim 1, wherein the second lens group consists of three lens elements.

6. The zoom lens of claim 5, wherein the first lens group consists of the first lens component of the first lens group and the second lens component of the first lens group.

7. The zoom lens of claim 5, wherein each of the first lens component of the first lens group and the second lens component of the first lens group consists of a lens element.

8. The zoom lens of claim 6, wherein each of the first lens component of the first lens group and the second lens component of the first lens group consists of a lens element.

9. A zoom lens formed of only two lens groups, arranged along an optical axis in order from the object side as follows:

- a first lens group; and
- a second lens group;

wherein

the first lens group includes, arranged along the optical axis in order from the object side, a first lens component made of plastic, having negative refractive power, and having at least one aspheric lens surface, and a second lens component having positive refractive power;

the second lens group includes, in order from the object side: a stop; a first lens component consisting of a first lens element with a biconvex shape that is made of plastic and has at least one aspheric lens surface; and a second lens component that includes, in order from the object side, a lens element of negative refractive power with the absolute value of the curvature of its object-side lens surface being smaller than the absolute value of the curvature of its image-side lens surface, said lens element being joined at said image-side lens surface to a lens element having a biconvex shape;

focusing is performed by movement of the second lens group along the optical axis; and the following conditions are satisfied:

$$B^{1/2} < f_{G2} / f_w < 0.9 \cdot B$$

$$-2.0 < f_{G1-1} / f_w < -1.5$$

$$R_{G2-1} / f_w > 0.8$$

$$| f_w / R_1 | < 0.08$$

$$10 < | f_{G2-2,3} / f_w | < 100$$

where

B is the zoom ratio of the zoom lens, namely, the ratio of the focal length at the telephoto end divided by the focal length at the wide-angle end,

$f_{G2}$  is the focal length of the second lens group,

$f_w$  is the focal length of the zoom lens at the wide-angle end,

$f_{G1-1}$  is the focal length of the first lens component of the first lens group,

$R_{G2-1}$  is the radius of curvature of the object-side lens surface of the first lens element of the second lens group,

$R_1$  is the radius of curvature of the object-side lens surface of the first lens component of the first lens group, and

$f_{G2-2,3}$  is the composite focal length of the joined lens elements of the second lens group.

1        10. The zoom lens of claim 9, wherein the first lens group consists of the first lens component of  
2        the first lens group and the second lens component of the first lens group.

1        11. The zoom lens of claim 9, wherein each of the first lens component of the first lens group  
2        and the second lens component of the first lens group consists of a lens element.

1        12. The zoom lens of claim 10, wherein each of the first lens component of the first lens group  
2        and the second lens component of the first lens group consists of a lens element.

1        13. The zoom lens of claim 9, wherein the second lens group consists of three lens elements.

1        14. The zoom lens of claim 13, wherein the first lens group consists of the first lens component  
2        of the first lens group and the second lens component of the first lens group.

1        15. The zoom lens of claim 13, wherein each of the first lens component of the first lens group  
2        and the second lens component of the first lens group consists of a lens element.

1        16. The zoom lens of claim 14, wherein each of the first lens component of the first lens group  
2        and the second lens component of the first lens group consists of a lens element.

1        17. The zoom lens of claim 1, wherein at least three lens surfaces of the zoom lens are aspheric  
2        lens surfaces.

1        18. The zoom lens of claim 9, wherein at least three lens surfaces of the zoom lens are aspheric  
2        lens surfaces.

1 19. The zoom lens of claim 1, wherein the following condition is satisfied:

2  $|f_w / R_1| < 0.025$

3 where

4  $R_1$  is the radius of curvature of the object-side lens surface of the first lens element of the  
5 first lens component of the first lens group.

1 20. The zoom lens of claim 9, wherein the following condition is satisfied:

2  $|f_w / R_1| < 0.025.$